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History, Art and Culture

3rd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars

• **Held in –** Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
• **Organized by –** International Buddhist Confederation.
• **Aim –** To foster engagement between young scholars and the enduring teachings of the Buddha.
• **Theme –**
- 2023 – Exploration of "Buddhist Pilgrimage".
- 2024 – Integration of "Buddha Dhamma in Education, Research, Healthcare, and Well-being".
- 2025 – "Wisdom Transmission in Buddha Dhamma in the 21st Century."

International Buddhist Confederation

• It is the world's largest *umbrella organization* of Buddhist communities.
• **Started in –** 2011.
• **Headquarter in –** New Delhi.
• **Motto –** "Collective Wisdom, United Voice."
• **Objectives –** To address and engage in issues of common global concern.
• To plays a role in policy advocacy, cultural preservation, Dhamma dialogue, and youth engagement.
• To conserve Buddhist traditions and heritage worldwide.
• **Key initiatives –** Global Buddhist Summit (2023), Asian Buddhist Summit (2024), and International Abhidhamma Divas (2024).

Social Issues

Vigyan Jyoti Programme

• **Initiated in –** 2019 by *Department of Science & Technology*.
• **Implementing partners -** Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) / Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
• **Objectives –** To establish *gender parity in STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields that are underrepresented by women.
• To encourage meritorious girls *to pursue higher education and careers* in STEM fields.

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)

• It is an autonomous body under *Ministry of Education.*
• **Started in –** 1985-86 as a co-educational and fully residential schools' system, from Class-VI to Class-XII, affiliated with CBSE.
• **Headquarter –** Noida
• **8 Regional Offices –** Bhopal, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Pune, and Shillong.
• **Objectives –** To provide *free education to talented children* predominantly from rural areas in every district.
• To give quality education, including culture, inculcation of values and awareness of the environment.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)

• It is an autonomous body under *Ministry of Education*.
• **Started in –** 1963.
• **Registered in –** Societies Registration Act, 1860.
• **Objectives –** To provide *uninterrupted education* to the wards of *transferable Central Government employees*.
• To provide, establish, endow, maintain, control and manage the central schools located all over India and abroad.

Department of Science & Technology (DST)

• **Established in –** 1971 by Ministry of science & technology.
• **Objectives –** To promote new areas of Science & Technology.
• To organise, coordinate and promote S&T activities.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)

• **Launched in –** 2020, by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE).
• **Aim –** To tackle the issue of substance abuse and a vision to make India drug free.
• **3-pronged approach –**
  - Supply curb by Narcotics Control Bureau.
  - Outreach and Awareness and Demand Reduction effort.
  - Treatment through Health Department.
• **4 Implementing structure –**
  - Central level by MoSJE.
  - State Level Abhiyaan Committees.
  - District Level Nasha Mukt Committees.
  - Municipalities Nasha Mukt Committees.

Polity & Governance

SabhaSaar

• An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered meeting summarization tool designed *to automatically generate structured Minutes of Meeting (MoM)* from Gram Sabha meetings' audio and video recordings.
• **Launched by –** Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
• **Features –** It uses advanced AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies to transcribe spoken discussions, identify key decisions and action points, and produce well-formatted meeting minutes.
• **Integrated with –** Bhashini.
• **Objectives –** To strengthen participatory democracy & enhance efficiency in local governance.
• To reduce the time and effort required for manual documentation while ensuring transparency and accountability.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies

• **NLP –** It is a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) that enables computers to comprehend, generate, and manipulate human language.
• It has the *ability to interrogate the data with natural language text or voice*, also called "language in."
• For example, it is the core technology behind virtual assistants, such as *Oracle Digital Assistant (ODA), Siri, Cortana, or Alexa*.

International Relations and Issues

Medical and Ayush Visa Portal

• It is designed for *foreign nationals (except Pakistani nationals) seeking medical treatment* in India through Ayush or other traditional Indian systems of medicine.
• **Launched in –** 2o23, by Ministry of Ayush.
• **Objectives –** To streamline and regulate entry of genuine foreigners.
• To ensure that only genuine hospitals are inviting the genuine patient for treatment by pre-validating Medical Visa.
• **Significance –** It enables hospitals, to generate Medical Visa invitation Letter and Medical Visa Extension Letter for Medical Visa/Medical Attendant Visa/Ayush Attendant Visa.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
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